

STANDARDS PRESENTATION
TO
CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD

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TITLE 8, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4

Subchapter 21. Telecommunication Safety Orders
Article 1. Telecommunications

Amend Section 8615(g) to read as follows:

§8615. Overhead Lines.

(g) Fall Protection.

(1) When work is performed at elevated locations more than 4 feet (1.2 meters) above ground on poles, towers or similar structures, the employer shall require the employees to use either a fall arrest ~~system equipment~~, work positioning ~~system equipment~~, or fall restraint system ~~travel restricting equipment~~, if other fall protection methods have not been provided (e.g., guardrails, safety nets, etc.). ~~The use of body belts for fall arrest systems is prohibited.~~

~~EXCEPTION: Point to point travel by a qualified person, unless conditions such as ice, high winds (as defined in Section 2951(f) of the High Voltage Electrical Safety Orders), design of the structure, or other conditions (e.g., chemical contaminants) prevent the employee from gaining a firm hand or foothold while traveling.~~

(2) Qualified telecommunications workers climbing or changing location on poles, towers, or similar structures shall use fall protection as required in subsection (g)(1).

EXCEPTION to subsection (g)(2): The employer demonstrates that fall protection is infeasible or creates a greater hazard, and provides fall injury risk control equivalent in effectiveness to that provided by subsection (g)(1).

(3) Personal fall protection systems listed in subsection (g)(1) shall meet the applicable requirements in Section 1670 of Article 24, except linemen's body belts used for climbing poles, towers or similar structures, and work positioning shall comply with the requirements of Section 2940.6(c) of the Electrical Safety Orders.

(4) The use of body belts for fall arrest systems is prohibited.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.